



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF KINGS**

**AMENDED NOTICE OF LEMOORE
COURT CLOSURE**

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**NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN
FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR
AVAILABILITY AT LEMOORE
COURT**

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**NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN
CLERKS' OFFICE SERVICE
HOURS IN AVENAL, CORCORAN
AND HANFORD**

The State of California is faced with a fiscal crisis which will have an impact on Court operations. All State Government Agencies have closely examined their operations and expenditures for evaluation of cost efficiencies where necessary.

The Kings County Superior Court has had prudent fiscal planning, effective operational cost cutting measures and revenue generating strategies. The Court now faces a budget deficit of approximately \$1.3 million in this fiscal year of 2012-2013, which started on July 1, 2012. This is the most severe fiscal crisis which the Court has had. Until the budget and its trailer bills were enacted, the Court was unable to determine the exact cuts which were to be made, but knew it would have to make some reduction in operations.

In light of our budget reductions, we had to quickly explore opportunities for reducing additional operational costs. Due to the urgency of these budget reductions, the judiciary has met numerous times to ascertain what other immediate cost savings need to occur. The Court concluded that there would be furloughs, layoffs, some salary freezes, a Court closure, reduction in service hours and transfers of some staff.

It was decided to close the Lemoore Branch Court to realize some additional savings and improve some operations. It was also determined that prior to the closure of the Lemoore

Court, Family Law Facilitator availability at that location should be limited in favor of services being offered at the Court's other facilities. Finally, it was determined by the judiciary that the public hours of the Clerks' Offices should be limited in a manner which presents the least amount of inconvenience to the public while at the same time offering cost-savings and administrative benefits to the Court.

During the next 60 days, the Kings County Superior Court will be working to transition and consolidate its operations from the Lemoore Court into its other locations. The Court believes that by consolidating operations into the Hanford and Corcoran Courts and implementing the other cost-savings measures discussed herein, efficiency and operational effectiveness will result to the benefit of all. The Court requests your patience during this transition period, and welcomes any comments you may have regarding the matter.

Pursuant to the California Rules of Court, rule 10.620 and California Government Code Section 68016, the Superior Court of Kings County is hereby giving urgent notice that:

1. **The Court in Lemoore will cease all operations effective September 10, 2012.** All matters and staff will be transferred to Hanford and Corcoran courthouses. The Superior Court will do its best in minimizing impact and try to ease the transition of service operations. Please work with the Court during these difficult times;

2. Beginning immediately and continuing until the cessation of such services due to the closure of the Lemoore facility, Family Law Facilitator services offered at that location will be reduced from two days per week to one. Family Law Court Facilitator services will be available on all other court days at the Court's Hanford or Corcoran locations; and,

3. **Effective September 12, 2012**, the public windows of the Clerks' Offices of the Kings County Superior Court, will be open as follows:

Monday through Thursday- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Documents may be deposited with the clerk's office by leaving them in a secured drop box located at each clerk's office. On days when Court is in session, documents left in a drop box prior to 4:30 p.m. will be deemed filed on the date of deposit. All documents deposited into the receptacle after 4:30 p.m., on a holiday, or on a court closure day will be deemed filed on the next day Court is open for business.

Any interested person or entity wishing to comment on the court's plan of action should direct the same to Todd H. Barton, Court Executive Officer at 1426 South Drive, Superior Court, Hanford, California, 93230.

You may also send your email to tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov

As required by the California Rules of Court, Rule 10.620 and California Government Code Section 68016, all public input received shall be provided to the person or persons making these very difficult decisions.